

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 PM-04 NSC-05 L-03 H-02

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E.O. 11652: N/A (DECLASS 11/1/76)

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: JOANNE OMANG, "WASHINGTON POST" CORRESPONDENT

REF: DRISCOLL-WEEKS TELCON OCTOBER 24

1. AFTER MUCH NEGOTIATING, ON EVE OF THEIR DEPARTURE FOLLOWING FIVE DAY VISIT TO CHILE (PART TROUT FISHING IN SOUTHERN CHILE), ANDREW HEISKELL, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TIME MAGAZINE, AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF HEDLEY DONOVAN, WERE GIVEN 20 MINUTE INTERVIEW BY PRESIDENT PINOCHET (USIA -- APC FILE VIA YOUR CHANNELS SOON AS APPEARS).

2. PINOCHET LED OFF SAYING THAT SINCE OMANG ARTICLES HE HAS NOT HELD ANY PRIVATE INTERVIEWS WITH FOREIGN PRESS REPRESENTATIVES. PRESIDENT NOTED THAT OMANG, ON HIS OWN ORDERS, WAS GIVEN 14 NAMES OF PRISONERS JAILED FOR PERFORMING ACTS OF TORTURE. WHEN INTERVIEWED, THEY DENIED GUILT, SO GOC OFFERED TO SHOW HER FULL RECORDS OF CASES. ACCORDING TO PINOCHET, OMANG REFUSED TO SEE RECORDS, SAYING SHE BELIEVED WHAT PRISONERS TOLD HER.

3. IN FOLLOW-UP, PAO TELEPHONED JUNTA SPOKESMAN FEDERICO WILLOUGHBY, OCT. 30, INQUIRING ONCE AGAIN ABOUT STATUS OF OMANG CASE AND NOTING THAT PINOCHET HAD MENTIONED OMANG IN HIS TALKS WITH "TIME" EXECUTIVES, DURING WHICH WILLOUGHBY WAS INTERPRETER.

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4. WILLOUGHBY REPLIED THAT IN OMANG CASE INQUIRIES SHOULD NOW BE MADE TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, WHICH "HAS CONTROL OVER ENTRY OF PEOPLE INTO COUNTRY."

5. RE HEISKELL-DONOVAN INTERVIEW, WILLOUGHBY SAID IT WAS "VERY CORDIAL" AND TIME PEOPLE WERE "PLEASED WITH OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH PRESIDENT". (COMMENT: LET'S SEE HOW IT APPEARS IN TIME).

6. COMMENT: SITUATION DOES NOT LOOK PROMISING FOR OMANG. LOOKS AS IF HIGHEST ECHELONS OF GOC HAVE WASHED THEIR HANDS OF JOANNE OMANG. WE INTEND TO FOLLOW-UP WITH MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TO SEE WHAT ITS POSITION IS, BUT ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC.
POPPER

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